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NLP for Biomedical Applications

Information integration through terminology integration





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Introduction

- ◆ NLP and text mining require
 - Terminology
 - Domain knowledge
- ◆ Biomedical terminologies
 - Usually provide vocabulary
 - May provide some domain knowledge
 - Enable semantic integration
- Semantic integration may benefit NLP by enabling links to external resources



Terminology integration

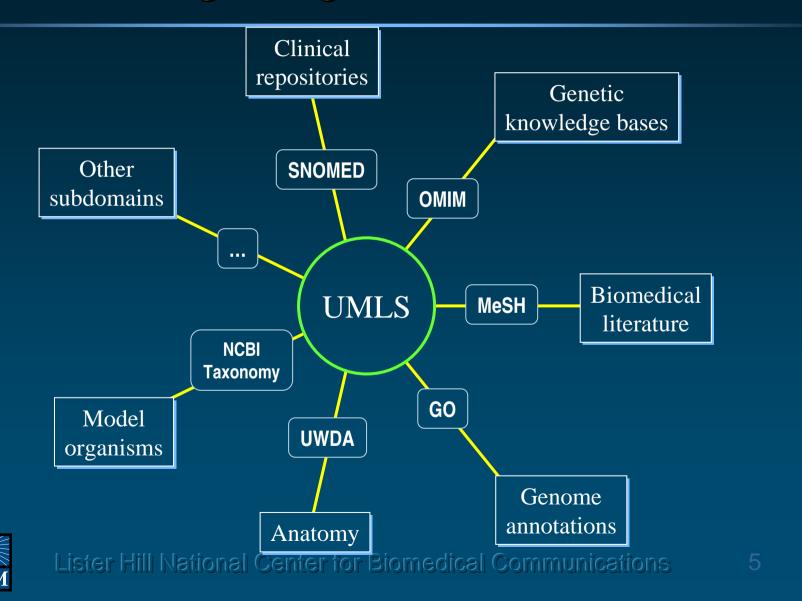
The Unified Medical Language System

Unified Medical Language System

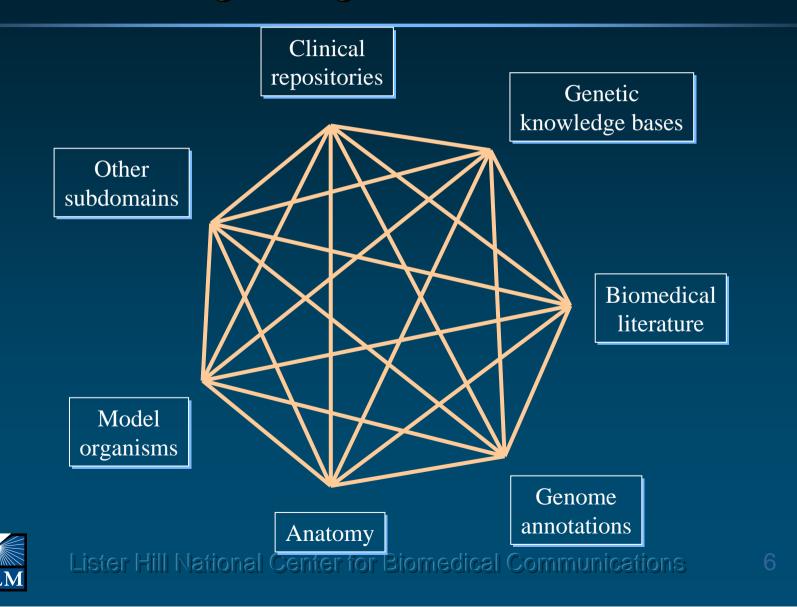
- ◆ Started in 1986
- National Library of Medicine
- «[...] the UMLS project is an effort to overcome two significant barriers to effective retrieval of machine-readable information.
- The first is the variety of ways the same concepts are expressed in different machine-readable sources and by different people.
- The second is the distribution of useful information among many disparate databases and systems.»
- ◆ Terminology integration
 - 60 families of biomedical vocabularies



Integrating subdomains



Integrating subdomains



Information integration

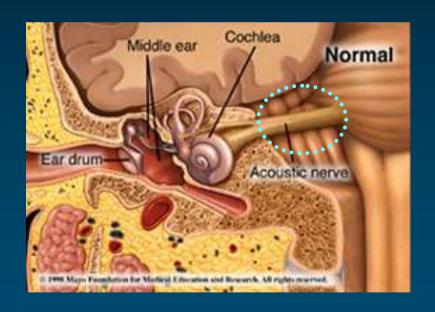
Genetics as an example

NF2 Gene, protein, and disease

Neurofibromatosis 2 is an autosomal dominant disease characterized by tumors called schwannomas involving the acoustic nerve, as well as other features. The disorder is caused by mutations of the NF2 gene resulting in absence or inactivation of the protein product. The protein product of NF2 is commonly called merlin (but also neurofibromin 2 and schwannomin) and functions as a tumor suppressor.



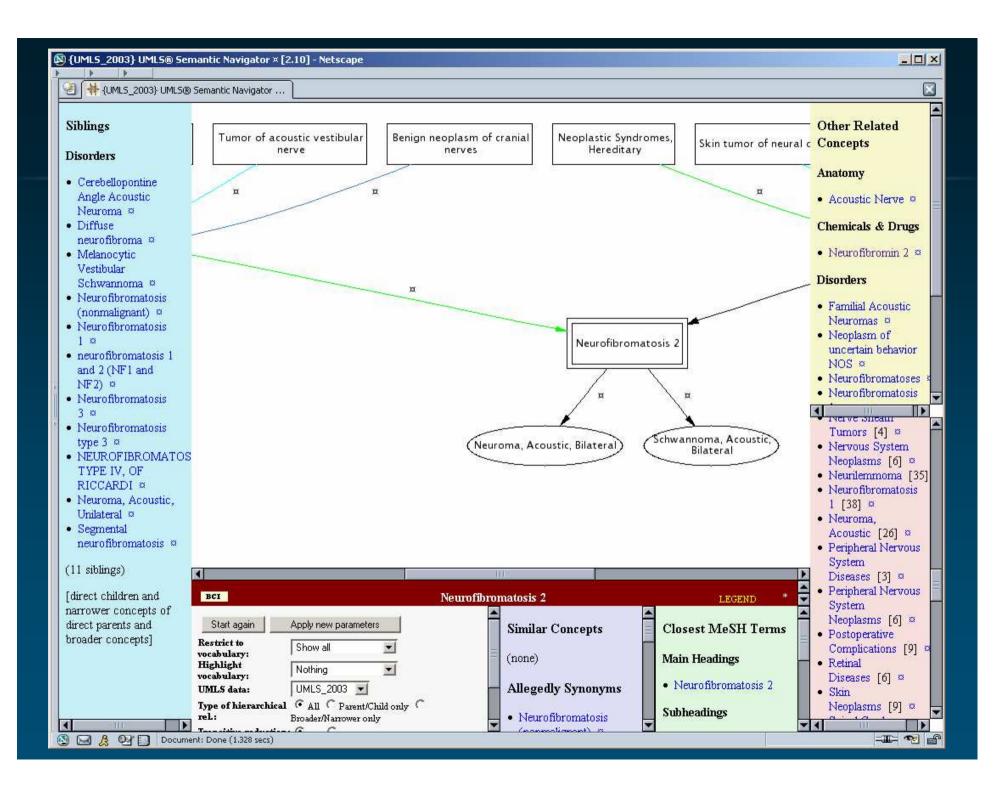
Schwannoma (acoustic neuroma)



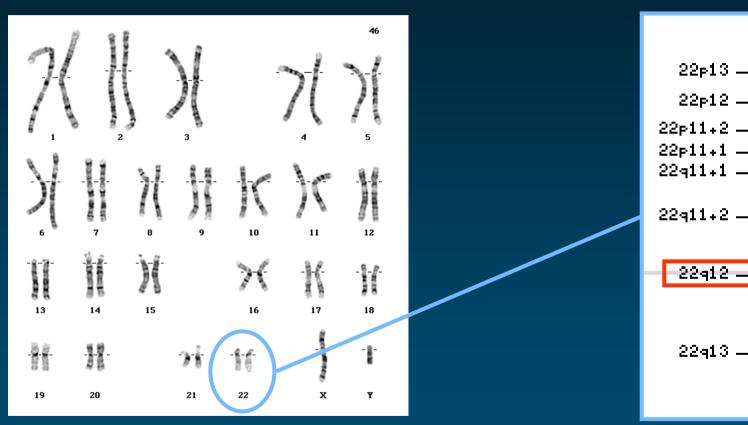


http://www.mayoclinic.com





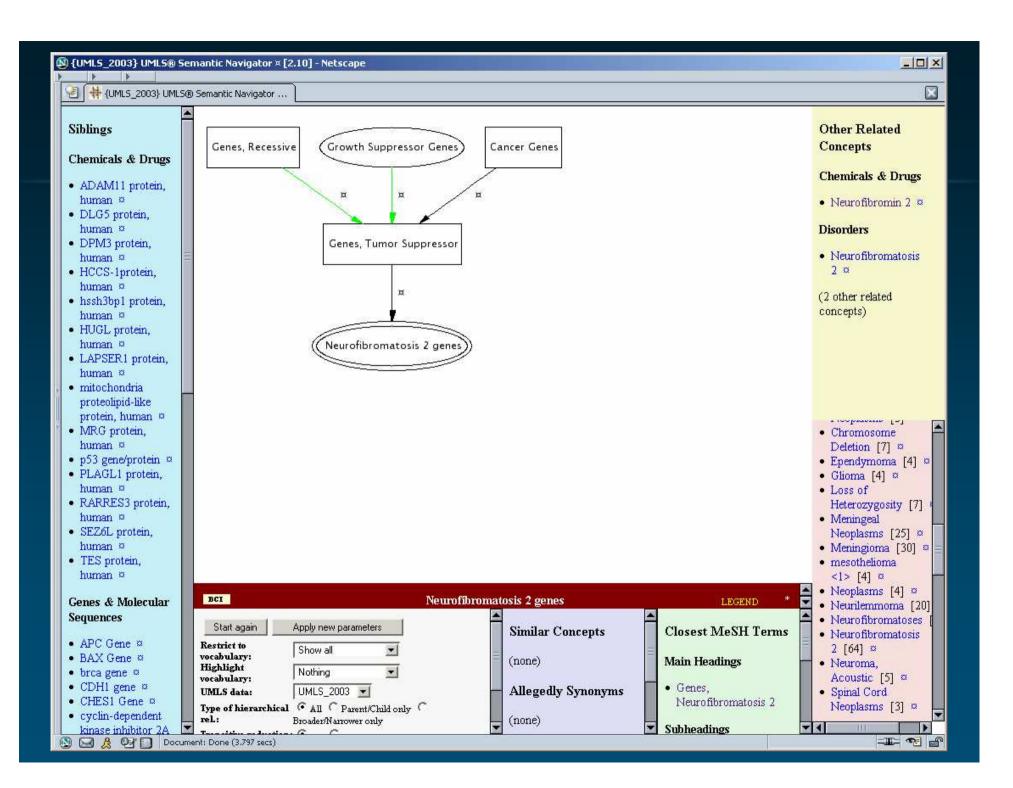
NF2 gene



http://staff.washington.edu/timk/cyto/human/



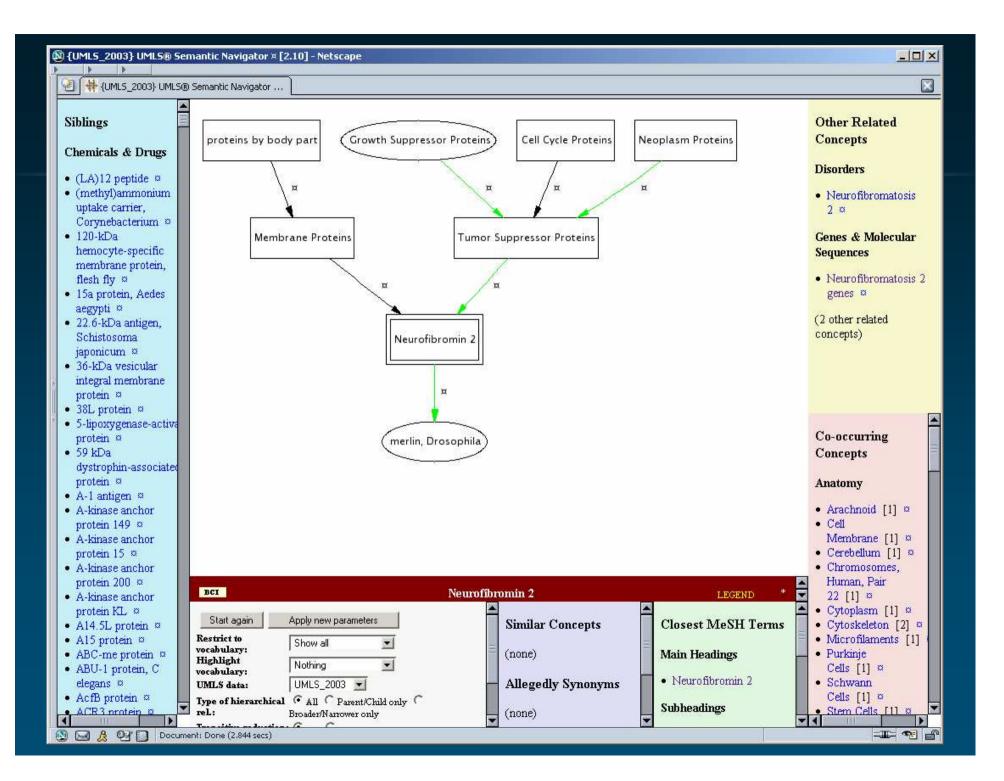


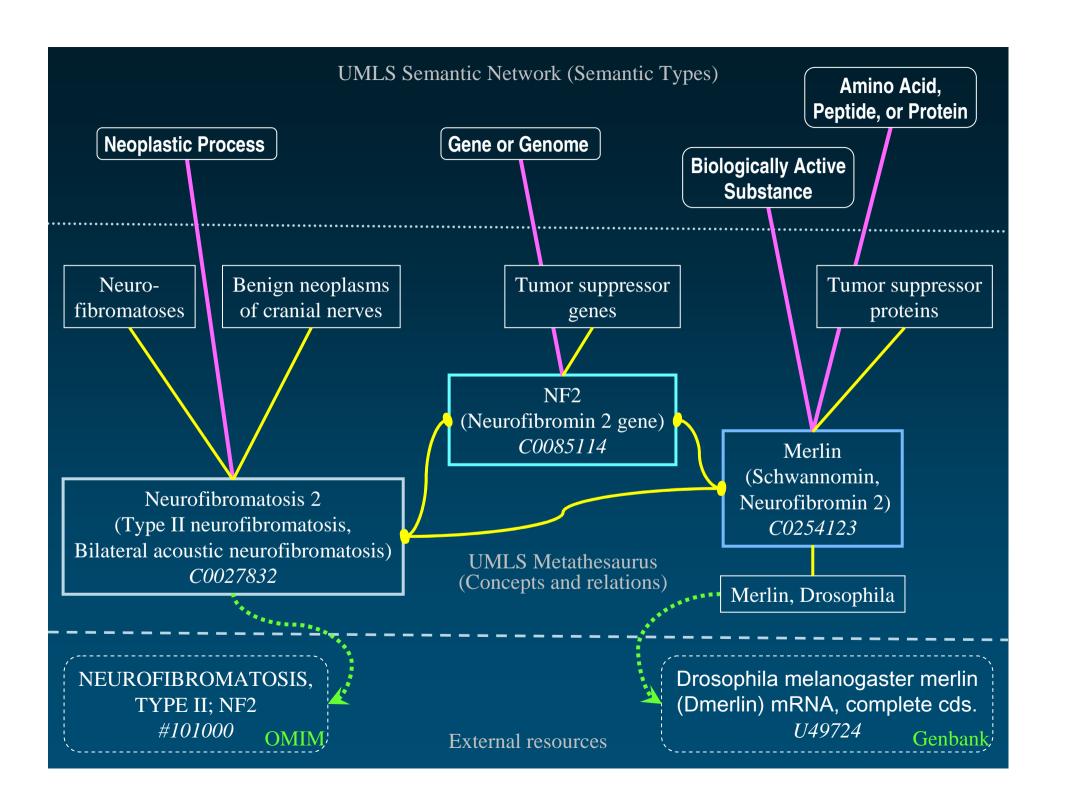


Merlin

- Synonyms
 - Neurofibromin 2
 - Schwannomin
 - Schwannomerlin
 - Neurofibromatosis-2
- ◆ 10 isoforms
- **♦** Annotations
 - Negative regulation of cell proliferation
 - Cytoskeleton
 - Plasma membrane



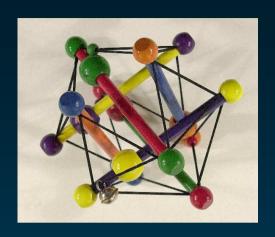




Limitations

- Genes not systematically represented
 - Most gene products and diseases are
- ◆ Gene/Gene product-Disease relations
 - Not systematically represented
 - Not explicitly represented (e.g., co-occurrence)
- Cross-references not systematically represented
- ◆ Naming conventions (genes)





Medical Ontology Research

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